(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAY KUMAR): (a) and (b) Government have given their in principle consent to the Draft Rehabilitation Schemes for the 8 sick subsidiaries of NTC, circulated by BIFR, proposing for revival of 44 viable mills and closure of 60 unviable mills costing Rs. 2993 crores to be financed largely out of the sale of surplus lands and assets, which include NTC mills in Karnataka. The final decision in this regard is to be taken by BIFR after considering objection/ suggestions from all concerned. BIFR has fixed hearings for finalisation of the Schemes for the 8 Subsidiaries on different dates in February 2002.

(c) and (d) Technological Upgradation Fund Scheme for assisting technological upgradation of textile mills is already under implementation since 1999-2000.

Export and import of Textiles

1804. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that textile exports have gone down in the first three quarters of the current year;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the imports have gone up considerably during the same period; and

(c) if so, the reasons for slowdown apart from the attacks in the USA on 11th September, 2001?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAY KUMAR): (a) During the period January-August 2001, textile export amounted to US $ 7665.5 million as against the exports of US $ 7980.0 million during the same period of 2000, recording a negative growth of 3.9 per cent.

(b) During the period January-August 2001 textile imports amounted to US$ 968.5 million as against the import of US$ 940.6 million during the same period of 2000, recording a growth of 3.0 per cent.

(c) The recent declining trend in the textile exports is mainly due to general slowdown in the economies of some of our major important trading partners

like US which got accentuated due to Sept. 11 attacks. It is also due to increased competition from our neighbouring countries like China, Bangladesh etc.

Assistance for setting up Handicraft complexes in Andhra Pradesh

1805. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have provided assistance for setting up handicraft complexes in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the places where these complexes have been set up; and

(c) the other places in the State where more such complexes are proposed to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAY KUMAR: (a) to (b) Yes Sir, assistance has been provided for setting up of an "Urban Hatt" at Tirupati in Andhra Pradesh.

(c) No proposal is pending with the Government of India.

Closure of cotton textiles Mills

1806. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that over 50 cotton textile mills across the country have been closed in the last 18 months on account of sharp decline in international cotton prices and decline in exports;

(b) if so, the details of the rehabilitation package being worked, if any, for the mills and the workers; and

(c) the specific measures contemplated for giving boost to cotton textile exports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAY KUMAR: (a) to (c) During 1-4-2000 to 30-9-2001, a total of 58 cotton/man-made fibre textile mills have been closed on account of